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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4465 IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS OTTAWA 392

GENEVA FOR DISDEL

SUBJECT: COMMONS DEBATE ON ABM: STATEMENTS BY DEFMIN CADIEUX

REF: OTTAWA 390

1. CADIEUX GAVE PRESENTATION STRONGLY WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DEPLOY SAFEGUARD SYSTEM. CADIEUX REFERRED TO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON CLEAR DEFENSIVE INTENT OF SYSTEM, AND ADDED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON IS AS "OPEN" AS THE PRIME MINISTER ON ABM QUESTION.

2. CADIEUX SAID GOC AWARE OF US CONSIDERATION OF ABM SYSTEM; IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO ASSESS IF CANADIAN TERRITORY IS NECESSARY AS WITH AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. CADIEUX EMPHASIZED THAT US HAS GIVE CANADA ACCESS TO CONSIDERABLE INFORMATION ON ABM QUESTION. POINTED OUT THAT ABM PLANS DISCUSSED WITH GOC AS EARLY AS APRIL 1967. CADIEUX SAID US HAS GIVEN GOC ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ENABLE CANADA TO MAKE JUDGMENT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEM. ADDED THAT US HAS NOT REQUESTED ABM SITES IN CANADA.

3. CADIEUX GAVE RUNDOWN OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MODIFIED SENTINEL SYSTEM AND ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO ALLEGED

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DANGERS TO CANADA POSED BY SYSTEM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SPARTAN EXPLOSIONS WOULD OCCUR SUFFICIENTLY HIGH ABOVE ATMOSPHERE TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO POPULATION IN AREA BELOW BURST, BUT EVEN IF EXPLOSIONS TOOK PLACE WITHIN ATMOSPHERE, HARMFUL EFFECTS WOULD BE RELATIVELY MINOR. HE CONTRASTED THIS WITH GREAT DAMAGE WHICH INCOMING SOVIET MISSILES STRIKING GROUND COULD CAUSE. HE CLOSED BY SAYING IF ONE ACCEPTS POSSIBILITY OF NUCLEAR EXCHANGE, CANADA IS MUCH SAFER WITH SPARTANS AROUND, HE ADDED THAT SPRINTS PROBABLY WOULD NOT REACH CANADA.

4. OPPOSITION LEADER STANFIELD ASKED CADIEUX WHETHER THERE WAS ANY NECESSARY INFORMATION ON ABM SYSTEM THAT CANADA HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET FROM US. CADIEUX SAID NO RPT NO. NDP MEMBER BENJAMIN THEN ROSE TO CHARGE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN CADIEUX'S STATEMENTS ON SUFFICIENCY OF INFORMATION AND PRIMIN'S STATEMENTS ON INSUFFICIENCY. SMITH

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